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AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

Recently there has been organized in Nashville the only negro board of trade in the world, writes Michael Jones in a communication to the Washington Star. It serves as a beacon light and stands as an ideal example of what such an organization means to a community in which there are colored men engaged in business. J. C. Napier, ex-register of the United States treasury, is president of the board, and through his master mind the policies are shaped and carried out. The young and unparalleled organization is demonstrating how indispensable such a body is to the fullest and broadest economic, religious and intellectual development of any town, city or county in which there are a goodly number of colored citizens. Dr. Booker T. Washington, whom the world honors and reveres, who has been invaluable to the progress of his race and who is an undisputed authority on negro life in America, tells us that there are owned, operated and controlled by negroes in America 100 insurance companies, 300 drug stores, 65 banks, 450 newspapers, magazines and periodicals and more than 20,000 other businesses of various kinds.

These people are succeeding in business because they are doing what the world wants done. A review of these facts will bring "visions of a better future" to even the most pessimistic of the race. How vivid it is that the Afro-American's problem is one of persistence rather than one of existence—that nothing but success awaits him if he will but have faith, endure for a while and keep courage.

It is imperative—and that soon—that he, in a much larger measure, ceases to be employe and becomes employer. Let there come from his midst satraps of trade, kings of finance, lords of industry, railroad wizards, steel czars and merchant princes. Ninety negro millionaires could solve about ninety per cent of the race problem.

The American Genetic association foresees a solution of the so-called race problem in the natural increase of the two races as analyzed by Professor Wilcox of the census bureau. Mr. Wilcox says the Negro is steadily losing ground in the South both by immigration of whites and by their own declining birthrate. They are losing still more rapidly in the North.

The more rapid increase of the whites is attributed not only to the influx of immigration, but to the fact that in the registration area where vital statistics are available, including three-fifths of the whites and one-fifth of the negroes, the negro death rate exceeds the white by about two-thirds. In the past 30 years the excess in the proportion of negro children has been falling until the present difference between the race is less than one-fourth that of 1880, and will, at the present rate, have disappeared when the next census is taken. This decline in the birthrate is ascribed largely to negro emigration into the northern cities. The birthrate among negroes in the city is but two-thirds of city whites, whereas in the country it is above the country whites. Besides the fecundity of all races is lower in the North and the negro trend northward is constantly increasing.

Most of the licorice root used in America comes from the marshy plains of Turkey and Russia.

Discussing the condition of the colored Baptist churches in Chicago, the leading church paper, the Standard, says:

"The need of leaders is fundamental. The negro has a social passion for organization. He wants to start something, or belong to something already started. There is scarcely a field of organization within his reach that he has not covered straightforwardly or surreptitiously. Many of these organizations, in the church and out of it, fail. Perhaps more fail than succeed. The failure, however, is not due to the lack of co-operation or interest, but rather to the lack of comprehension and intelligence in working it out.

They are willing to try approved methods, to copy successful organizations, to imitate successful efforts; but these are of little advantage unless they are helped to secure such trained leadership as will put them in possession of the agents and the assets which were the indispensable factors in securing this success. It seems obvious that we can be of real help in training the men and women who are to be, in time, the leaders in conventional life of these churches."

Not only is it of vital interest to this whole municipality of Houston that its large negro population should acquire that reasonable intelligence which is the fruit of a good system of public schools and those useful habits of sustained labor which will make them invaluable in the growing industrial enterprises of Houston, but it is of equal interest that the negro population should live on sanitary streets and in sanitary yards and homes and that when stricken with disease they should have access to a well planned and well regulated hospital. Modern economists and statisticians have demonstrated that the financial losses due to preventable illness reach an astounding annual total among those employed in the industrial enterprises of the nation.

These statistics apply with force to the colored population of the South where the negro is a large industrial factor. Hence this movement for negro hospital facilities is a timely step in the right direction—a step dictated by an enlightened scientific self interest on part of the good white people as well as by the more unselfish humanitarian and religious motives.

To my own people here, I would say, "Seek to measure up to the opportunity presented you in this great city, along all lines, industrial, commercial, educational and religious. Let the colored ministers, physicians, teachers, merchants, lawyers and sturdy laboring people who are the backbone of the race join hands, heart and pocket-books to help push this negro hospital movement to a successful conclusion. Do your utmost. Sacrifice something for the benefit of the race and the good white people will do their part."

—Ed Blackshear, in the Houston Post.

H. P. Ewing, a negro farmer of Wyandotte county, Kansas, has evolved a plan that promises well for the betterment of his race. A farmer himself, he believes in the "back to the soil" movement for his people.

The outcome of his long cherished plan is the successful launching of the Kaw Valley Truck Farm company, incorporated under the laws of Kansas, with a capital stock of \$5,000, divided into 500 shares of \$10 value. The company has leased 105 acres just west of Armourdale, has it all under cultivation and is now preparing to market a crop of vegetables of all kinds that will show results of scientific and intensive farming.

For 35 years Ewing has been raising crops in Wyandotte county, at one time having 1,000 acres of ground planted wholly to potatoes. From his years of experience he has evolved ideas that not only increase his yield, but enable him to market the best class of farm products. For example, he has found that turnips furnish the best fertilizer for potato ground.

"I find for this climate and soil that the Red River Ohio potato is the best seed to plant," he said in describing his methods. "As soon as the crop is harvested I sow the ground to turnips. The best of these I harvest, the balance are plowed under, enriching the soil and resulting in a better grade of potatoes the following year. The best time to market potatoes here is in July and August. Prices are better, as we do not have to compete with the northern grown product."

Austria has 74,267 miles of highway. In 1910 the government expended \$5,682,290 on roadway maintenance.

"Have faith in the white man. He is your friend."

Booker T. Washington, the negro educator, offered this advice to members of his race in an address at Atlanta, Ga., before the annual negro Christian students' conference. He declared that notable progress in co-operation between the race had been made in the last decade.

The speaker pleaded for the education of his race.

"By right living, obeying the laws and showing due deference to every man, you will demonstrate to the world what education makes out of the negro," said Doctor Washington.

A popular novelty recently introduced in France is a cup so made as to keep tea or coffee hot while the user is reading the morning paper between sips. This is accomplished by providing the cup with a double bottom into which a slip of heated metal can be placed. The liquid is kept hot for a period of about twenty minutes.

Many speeches are historical only because, like history, they repeat themselves.

KEEP "IN FORM"

This really means keeping the digestion good, the liver active and the bowels free from constipation. You are then ready to "play the game" to win. For any disturbance in the digestive functions

HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS

has been proven very helpful. You should try it, but insist on getting HOSTETTER'S

Of Course.

The Lady Judge—I'm getting tired of these requests for postponements. What's your latest excuse?

The Lady Lawyer—Why, your honor, we only ask you to give us another week. The fact is, my client's dressmaker is ill and can't get her going-to-court gown finished until that date.

The Lady Judge—Granted. Next case.—Stray Stories.

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 Sonny—Pa, what is a hazazzaz?
 Pa—It is a man who has an impediment of his intellect.

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Perhaps King David revised his statement that all men were liars after discovering a man who never went fishing.

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A girl will forgive you for thinking she has no brains if you only think she is pretty.

Good Cause for Alarm

Deaths from kidney diseases have increased 70% in twenty years. People overdo nowadays in so many ways that the constant filtering of poisoned blood weakens the kidneys.

Beware of fatal Bright's disease. When backache or urinary ills suggest weak kidneys, use Doan's Kidney Pills, drink water freely and reduce the diet. Avoid coffee, tea and liquor. Doan's Kidney Pills command confidence, for no other remedy is so widely used or so generally successful.

An Oklahoma Case
 Hugh Sanner, Alabama Ave., Anadarko, Okla., says: "I was ailing for some time, my back and my kidneys and bladder were affected. My back got awfully lame and it was all I could do to stoop up after stooping. I had acute pains through my bladder and the kidney secretions were far too frequent in passing. Doan's Kidney Pills took hold of the trouble as soon as I used them and they cured me. Today, I am in the best of health."

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